

## Pensacola Beach Advocates

Note: These comments are derived from the 250 responses to the PBA survey in March 2009 and from the PBA Position Statement adopted in November, 2008. As the planning process proceeds, the PBA will encourage its members to participate, and when appropriate, the PBA will poll its members again to get their input as more concrete Core Area ideas surface.

Parking

- Multi-level garages are generally NOT considered desirable. But if multi-level garage(s) ARE recommended, let's create multi-use facilities that can also be used for events. The parking garages should be designed with adequate people movement (e.g. wider stairways, etc.), access to electricity and water for vendors, public toilets, etc. Respect the open feeling of the current Core Area. Don't block views of the Gulf. Make them as aesthetically pleasing as possible. Connect any garages to boardwalks and overpasses.
- The PBA members do not recommend moving Pensacola Beach Blvd.

People Movement

- Expand the Boardwalks for Soundside and Gulfside. Connect all of them for pedestrian flow around entire Core Area
- Pedestrian overpasses or underpasses are needed.
- Encourage bicycling by installing bicycle racks throughout the Core Area.
- Expand the availability of shuttles or trolleys
- Need better lighting in parking lots – safe for people and turtles

Other Issues

- Improved guidelines for commercial architecture, colors schemes and signage are needed to provide a more thematic feel to the Core Area
- The Core Area businesses are best served by hotels with principally smaller rooms & suites (under 850 sq ft with limited in-room amenities) and adequate meeting/convention space to encourage shoulder season activity.
- The Escambia County Comprehensive Plan sets a residential building cap (houses and condo units) of 4,126 units for Pensacola Beach. This is in recognition of the fragile nature of a barrier island community. The existence of this building cap is one of the key elements in preserving the current mix of residential single family lots and condominiums on the island. The new Master Plan for the Beach should re-affirm the importance of this building cap.